

Editorial

The double issue of *Politics, Culture & Socialization* you are holding in your hands again contains a regular issue, No. 1, as well as a special issue. The regular issue is as usual composed of peer-reviewed articles in the sphere of political socialization and education and political psychology as well. This time, our special issue focuses on a number of specific methods used in these particular domains. Researchers presenting their findings in this volume are from the United Kingdom, Sweden, Norway, Poland, Ukraine, Germany, The Netherlands, and Belgium.

Vol. 7, Issue No. 1 of *Politics, Culture & Socialization* deals with various topics in the broad field of political socialization and political psychology that are investigated by scholars from Sweden, Belgium, Germany, Poland, and The Netherlands. The opening article of this part is entitled “The development of political knowledge in adolescence: The importance of information-rich socialization contexts”. Based on a large-scale Belgian dataset, Soetkin Verhaegen (Stockholm University, Sweden) and Joris Boonen (University of Leuven, Belgium) conclude that interactive exposure to political information may be less important for the development of political knowledge by adolescents than the presence of an information-rich context. Discussion with parents in combination with reading, watching and listening to news in mass media are significantly and strongly related to their level of political knowledge. Johannes Diesing (Justus-Liebig University, Giessen, Germany) argues, in the second article of this issue that political protests and civil disobedience in general can contribute to a democratization of society (“Contestation and Constitution: Civil Disobedience in the 2012-2014 Refugee Protests in Germany”). The article bridges the gap between empirical research about social movements and theories of radical democracies. A third article discusses the application and implications of referenda. This case study by Maria Marczewska-Rytko (Marie Curie-Sklodowska University, Lublin, Poland) critically analyses the media discourse in Poland about the nationwide referendum in Poland in 2015. How desirable are referenda and what are the limitations of this instrument? In their article entitled “Making political leaders king: Enacted credibility in times of elections”, Sabine van Zuydam and Tamara Metze (Tilburg University and Wa-

eningen University & Research, The Netherlands) address the tricky subject of politician's credibility. The authors demonstrate with their case study of the Dutch social Democratic leader Job Cohen that "enacted credibility", the framing and reframing of leader's credibility in the media debate, is rather beyond the control of politicians. Oleksii Polegkyi (University of Antwerp, Belgium) unravels the position of women in the public sphere of Ukraine. In his article on "The Gender Equality and Political Participation in Ukraine after the Euromaidan revolution", the author demonstrates that gender balance remains a problem in Ukrainian politics, regardless of a series of legislative changes. Polegkyi overviews the situation and he explores the reasons for the discrepancy between the real situation and the laws aimed to ensure a balanced representation of men and women in power.

Vol. 7, Issue No. 2 of *Politics, Culture and Socialization* addresses the issue of methods in political socialization and political psychology. Scholars from Britain, Belgium and Sweden in their articles commented on methods, demonstrated the application of new concepts, or introduced techniques that were until now hardly practiced in their research area within political psychology or political socialization. The methodology issue found inspiration in the IPSA Conference on Methods in Political Science: *A Rainbow of Methods* that was organized by members of RC21 at the University of Antwerp (Faculty of Social Sciences) September 16-18, 2015, and supported, besides by IPSA, by various other organizations: the IPSA Research Committees (RC's) RC01 (Concepts and methods), RC29 (Psycho-politics), RC06 (Political Sociology), RC21 (Political Socialization and Education), and RC22 (Political Communication), as well as the two Belgian political science associations Association Belge Francophone de Science Politique (ABSP), the Vereniging voor Politieke Wetenschappen (VPW), and the International Association for Political Science Students (IAPSS). Conference chairs were Prof. Christ'l De Landtsheer, University of Antwerp (RC21, IPSA RC Liaison Representative) and Prof. Derek Beach, Aarhus University, Denmark (RC01, co-convener of the ECPR Methods Schools, instructor at the IPSA – USB Summer School in Sao Paulo, Brazil), the conference coordinator was Dr. Lieuwe Kalkhoven, University of Antwerp (RC21, General Secretary). Two articles in this special issue that focus on methods in political rhetoric within political psychology are studies that were presented at this conference. The first article by Stine Iversen (University of Salford, UK) and Peter Bull (University of York, UK) analyzes "Rhetorical devices and audience responses in Norwegian political speeches". It is the first study to analyze 16 different rhetorical devices in Norwegian election speeches. The article describes in detail the methodological issues. Results were compared with the use of rhetorical devices in Japanese, American, and British political speeches. The second article is entitled "Linguistic discourse analysis as a tool for analyzing political communication". The author, Martina Temmerman (Free University of Brussels, and University of Antwerp, Belgium) discusses in detail how political language can be analyzed by way of discourse analysis to be able to clarify political meaning. The article presents as an example the examination of an interview with the leader of the extreme-right Flemish-Belgian party Vlaams Belang. Two other articles published in the special issue on methods are in political socialization studies. In "Talking politics at the dinner table: stereotypes in children's political choices" we see one of the few applications of the experimental method in the area of political socialization studies. Christ'l De Landtsheer and her colleagues Lieuwe Kalkhoven, Wannes Heirman and Philippe De Vries (University of Antwerp, Belgium)

examined the role of children's social background for their stereotyping and prejudices in regard to ethnicity, gender or age of political candidates. They conclude from their experiment with school-aged children that besides of parents' political preference and education, domestic political discussion is of significant influence. This conclusion seems to be partly in support of the findings from the opening article in Vol. 7, Issue No. 2 of *Politics, Culture & Socialization*, by Soetkin Verhaegen (Stockholm University, Sweden) and Joris Boonen (University of Leuven, Belgium) that emphasizes the importance of the information context. The closing article of Vol. 7 and Issue 2 is by Viktor Dahl, Ali Abdelzadeh and Sofia Sohl (Örebro University, Sweden). This article argued that the degrees of political efficacy and political trust are not sufficient as explanatory factors of political activity among adults. One should also take into account political interest of the subjects. This conclusion complements the findings by media researchers that regardless the education level, political knowledge is furthered by political interest (Common Knowledge: News and the Construction of Political Meaning, W. Russell Neuman, Marion R. Just, and Ann N. Crigler, 1992).

This volume of *Politics, Culture and Socialization* brings six book reviews that all discuss highly topical and relevant recent books in the field of political psychology and political socialization. One of the books is in political rhetoric, "The All New Don't Think of an Elephant" by George Lakoff (2014), two of the books are in the area of leadership studies: "Why Irrational Politics Appeals: Understanding the Allure of Trump" by Mari Fitzduff (2017) and "The Clash of The Titans: A psycho-political cartography of Belgian politics" in Dutch) by Christ'l De Landtsheer and Pascal De Sutter (2011). Three books are in international relations and Foreign Policy Studies: "The Polythink Syndrome, U.S. Foreign Policy Decisions on 9/11, Afghanistan, Iraq, Iran, Syria, and ISIS", by Alex Mintz and Carly Wayne (2016), "Propaganda and counter-terrorism. Strategies for global change" by Emma Louise Briant (2016), and *Confounding Powers. Anarchy and International Society from the Assassins to Al Qaeda* by William J. Brenner (2016). Book reviews were respectively provided by Jana Van Wymeersch, Charlotte Schaalje, Annelies Verschueren, Lauren Deckers, Martine van Minnen and Lauren Vandenbroeck (University of Antwerp). We recommend all the books! Do not hesitate to contact our book review editor Anna Brune (FernUniversitaet in Hagen, Department of Community Psychology, Germany) at anna.brune@fernuni-hagen.de with your ideas on new books in the area that you would like to review.

The editorial team welcomes Ganna Diedkova (ganna.diedkova@uantwerpen.be) who will in the future, as an editorial secretary, assist Oleksii Polegkyi, Senior Editorial Secretary (polegkyi@hotmail.com). Please contact Oleksii and Ganna (Political Communication Unit, University of Antwerp) in case you would like to submit your manuscript to the journal *Politics, Culture and Socialization*.

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